



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

January 29, 2015

Senator Gary Winfield, Co-Chair Labor & Public Employees Committee
Representative Peter Tercyak, Co-Chair Labor & Public Employees Committee
Senator Tony Hwang, Ranking Member Labor & Public Employees Committee
Representative David Rutigliano, Ranking Member Labor & Public Employees Committee
Members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee,

Raised Senate Bill #593 – AAC SEVERE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. I would like to comment on the subject bill on the agenda for today's public hearing.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association would like to support the subject bill. We believe that it is becoming more and more apparent that this issue is a reality. Recent events in the State of Connecticut appear to have brought this impairment right to our front doors. We would suggest that while some would have some skepticism, we would believe that this legislation, which requires a diagnosis from licensed professionals, would preclude any attempts at false claims. It has been mentioned that some symptoms do not surface for several years after exposure to an incident. Proper documentation of such exposures would be crucial.

We would ask that you pass this legislation to provide proper workers' compensation coverage that reflects on the issues that Connecticut's firefighters face in their workplace.

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

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